GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3563
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
PRODUCTION OF SUGARCANE AND COTTON
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of sugarcane and cotton during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) whether the Government is importing sugar from other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to increase yield/per hectare of sugarcane; and

(e) the recent development in research of sugarcane?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) : The production of sugarcane during 2003-04 and 2004-05 was 237.31 million tonnes and 234.67 million tonnes respectively. The production of cotton during these two years was 138.66 lakh bales and 160.66 lakh bales respectively of 170 kgs. each.

(b) & (c) : Sugar is an O.G.L. (Open General License) commodity and is freely importable as per the commercial prudence of the importers. However, as per the prevailing Export Import (EXIM) Policy of the Government, all commodities, including raw sugar can also be imported by actual users against Advance Licenses (ALS) obtained under the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificates (DEEC) Scheme, under which such imports are exempted from duties but are subject to export obligation to be fulfilled within the stipulated period. The import of sugar was 41.43 thousand tonnes and 50.65 thousand tonnes in 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(d): Research strategies to increase the productivity of sugarcane in sugarcane producing States are being implemented through a network of regular and voluntary research centers under All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Sugarcane. Apart from this, for increasing the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS) was initiated in 1995-96 and was implemented in 21 States/ Union Territories. However, since October 2000, the scheme SUBACS has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture along with other 26 schemes to give more flexibility to States and implement the programmes on the basis of priorities and requirements of individual States. The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstration, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seed production and pest measures etc.

(e) : The following are the recent developments in research of sugarcane

? Development of integrated approach for weed management in sugarcane ratoon.
? Mechanization of ring/pit planting of sugarcane.
? Development of Trichocards for bio-control of stalk borer, internode borer and early shoot borer in sugarcane.
? Development of seeder cum planter and zero till planter.
? Intensification of biotechnology research for resistance to pests and diseases.